

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A shaft coupling element comprising:
a first portion configured for connection to a shaft and a second portion configured for connection to a secondary component;
the first portion comprises first and second spaced apart side walls with a partial cylindrical portion extending therebetween to define a shaft receiving slot the shaft receiving slot having an axial direction and having an axial opening into the shaft receiving slot and the partial cylindrical portion having opposite ends in the axial direction;
a through bore extending through the first and second walls; and
a safety notch extending entirely through one of the opposite ends of the partial cylindrical portion adjacent the axial opening into the shaft receiving slot so as to define a radial opening extending from the shaft receiving slot entirely through the cylindrical portion in a direction transverse to the axial direction, such that the shaft can pass through the radial opening when the shaft is not completely inserted into the shaft receiving slot.
2. (Previously Presented) The shaft coupling element of claim 1 wherein the through bore is at an axial distance (B) from the axial opening into the shaft receiving slot and the safety notch has an axial length (S) that is larger than the distance (B).
3. (Previously Presented) The shaft coupling element of claim 1 wherein the through bore is at an axial distance (B) from the axial opening into the shaft receiving slot, the safety notch has an axial length (S), and the shaft has a forward chamfer having an axial length (C), wherein the safety notch axial length (S) in combination with the chamfer axial length (C) is larger than the distance (B).

4. (Original) The shaft coupling element of claim 1 wherein the shaft receiving slot has a circular configuration.

5. (Original) The shaft coupling element of claim 1 wherein the shaft receiving slot has a u-shaped configuration.

6. (Original) The shaft coupling element of claim 1 wherein the second portion includes a yoke having spaced apart arms with a securement bore extending therethrough.

Claims 7-16 (Canceled)